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The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 12 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Ashgabat Declaration of the high-level United Nations-Central Asia dialogue on implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, which was held in Ashgabat on 13 June 2017 and was attended at the ministerial level by representatives from the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 118, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative

17-11964 (E) 190717

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Annex to the letter dated 12 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ashgabat Declaration

1. We, the representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, have convened at the ministerial level on the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Government of Turkmenistan on 13 June 2017, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, for the "High-Level United Nations-Central Asia Dialogue on Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia". The High-Level Dialogue reviewed the progress made and defined future strategic priorities for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, including the Joint Plan of Action, which was adopted in this city on 30 November 2011.

2. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and recognize that the prevention of terrorism is one of the most important components of ensuring national and regional security. We also affirm that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, culture, civilization or ethnic group.

3. We welcome the important role of the United Nations in international counter-terrorism efforts, as well as the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council with regard to countering terrorism.

4. We welcome the recent initiative of the Secretary-General to reform the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture by establishing a new Office of Counter-Terrorism, and we look forward to working closely with this new Office. We also recognize the valuable support of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office and UNRCCA in the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action, as well as the expertise provided by other international, regional and subregional organizations operating in Central Asia. We also note with appreciation that this year marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of UNRCCA.

5. We agree to further strengthen our cooperation and coordination with the United Nations and other relevant entities, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly with regard to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. While the primary responsibility to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains with us as Member States of the United Nations, we appeal for increased engagement by our bilateral partners, as well as international and regional organizations in support of its implementation.

6. We note that Central Asia is the first region where comprehensive, integrated and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was started. To this end, we recognize with satisfaction the achievements of the first two phases of the joint UNCCT-UNRCCA project "Towards the Implementation of the Joint Plan of Action for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia", which is funded by the European Union and Norway, and have agreed that on this very strong foundation, and as a way forward, we will continue to support a balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through a third phase of this project.

7. We request for the continued support of the United Nations, in particular, through its Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to further assist in the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action, by coordinating efforts, helping build capacity, and supporting a platform for regular exchanges of information on progress towards implementation.

8. We intend to exert all necessary efforts to counter new threats identified in the fifth review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including the recommendations of the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, through promoting dialogue and conflict prevention, addressing the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon, promoting youth engagement, skills development and employment facilitation, countering terrorist narrative and the misuse of information technology, as well as sharing of information and best practices.

9. We further call for greater coherence by partners, United Nations entities, as well as other regional and international organizations supporting our activities, including the use of the Matrix of Activities of regional and international organizations in supporting the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia, jointly prepared by CTITF and UNRCCA, to coordinate their work.

10. We also express our gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for their initiative and warm welcome in hosting the "High-Level United Nations-Central Asia Dialogue on Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia" in Ashgabat.

11. Adopted on 13th of June 2017 by the participants of the "High-Level United Nations-Central Asia Dialogue on Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia", in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Ashgabat, 13 June 2017